

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 15922 051147Z

42

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 DRC-01 AID-20 PA-03 PRS-01

USIA-15 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SIL-01 /109 W

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P 051100Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6764

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 15922

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, VS

SUBJ: JAILED UNION LEADERS

REF: (A) SAIGON 11981; (B) SAIGON 13693; (C) SAIGON 12072

(D) STATE 174899

PARIS FOR CONDON

1. ON AUGUST 30, THE TWO CVT NURSES WERE RELEASED FROM JAIL
AND PLACED IN TRAN QUOC BUU'S CUSTODY.

2. ON SEPT 3 OIL WORKERS UNION PRESIDENT NGUYEN THUA NGHIEP
AND BANK EMPLOYEES UNION PRESIDENT DANG TAN SI WERE BROUGHT TO
TRIAL BEFORE THE THIRD MILITARY COURT AND CHARGED WITH TREASON
AND ORGANIZING GROUPS FOR IMPROPER PURPOSES. LOCAL NEWSPAPERS
REPORT THAT THE COURT REDUCED THE CHARGES TO THE LESSER CHARGE
OF DISTURBING THE NATIONAL SECURITY. ACCORDING TO THEIR LAWYER,
BOTH WERE PRONOUNCED GUILTY AND SENTENCED TO 18 MONTHS IN JAIL
PLUS TWO YEARS PROBATION. HE CLAIMS THAT JUDICIAL PROCEDURES WERE
IMPROPER AND HAS TAKEN MATTER TO COURT OF APPEALS.

3. ACCORDING TO LAWYER TRAN VAN TUYEN, LOWER HOUSE OPPOSITION
LEADER AND DEFENSE COUNSEL FOR RAILROAD WORKERS SECRETARY HOANG
XUANG DONG, HE HAS RECEIVED AUTHORITY, FROM THE MILITARY COURT,
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PAGE 02 SAIGON 15922 051147Z

TO CONSULT WITH HIS CLIENT AND PREPARE HIS CASE. TUYEN BELIEVES

DONG'S CASE WILL BE DISMISSED BECAUSE OF LACK OF EVIDENCE.
HOWEVER, HE DOES NOT KNOW WHEN THE CASE WILL BE HEARD.

4. WE WILL FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS ON DONG'S CASE AND REPORT. THE
AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN PRESSING THESE MATTERS AT HIGH LEVELS AND
IS HOPEFUL THAT FURTHER EFFORTS WILL BRING DISMISSAL AS TUYEN
EXPECTS.

MARTIN

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NNN

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30 JUN 2005

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